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NSC BRIEFING

14 January 1959

APPOINTMENT OF MOLOTOV TO THE HAGUE

I. USSR has requested and received Netherlands' agrément to appointment of Molotov as Ambassador. Appointment itself, however, has not yet taken place and hitch may have developed.

A. Moscow put out first feeler in mid-December. Later official request for agrément was granted by Dutch, probably in first week of January.

B. Netherlands Foreign Minister, apparently mindful of recently renewed attacks on Molotov as member of "anti-party group," asked Moscow to give public indication of its confidence in Molotov.

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II. Moscow has officially ignored press speculation about appointment, although it received agrément more than a week ago. Delay<sup>between</sup> agrément and appointment not unusual, but Molotov is somewhat special case and we cannot take new appointment for granted until he appears at the Hague.

III. It seems to us that appointment, assuming it takes place, would mean:

A. Molotov apparently exempted for present from further action against "anti-party group."

B. Any contacts he may have with the Chinese Communists in Outer Mongolia--frequently rumored--will be cut off.

C. USSR would get fuller benefit from his years of diplomatic experience.

D. We do not see in this "political" comeback for him.

1. Mikoyan suggested as much in Chicago, saying that he respected Molotov's abilities but would never want to see him again in policy-making post.